

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 37, 43 and 44 have been amended. No new matter is introduced herein. Claims 1, 5, 8-9, 11-12, 14-20, 24, 26, 29-30, 32, 37 and 43-44 are pending.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 43 and 44 would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 43 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 44 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 37. Because claims 43 and 44 include all of the limitations of respective base claims 1 and 37, Applicants request that the objection to claims 43 and 44 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 5, 8-9, 11-12, 14-20, 24, 26, 29-30, 32 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ejiri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,969,969) in view of Kenji (JP 10-257482). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended, includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

... a synthetic-image generating unit operable to generate a synthetic image by using the circumferential state image, said synthetic image including a surrounding space around the vehicle and an assumed-movement pattern image which is based on a predetermined driving operation of the vehicle ...

... the assumed-movement pattern image including a movement of the vehicle between a start position of the vehicle and a

parking position of the vehicle in case of performing the predetermined driving operation...

Claim 37 includes a similar recitation. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at Fig. 7.

Ejiri et al. disclose, in Figs. 33 and 37, a system for depicting objects around a vehicle and for producing driving operations suitable for the environment around the vehicle. Ejiri et al. do not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed features of "said synthetic image including a surrounding space around the vehicle and an assumed-movement pattern image which is based on a predetermined driving operation of the vehicle" (emphasis added). This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Ejiri et al.

In addition, Ejiri et al. do not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed features of "the assumed-movement pattern image, including a movement of the vehicle between a start position of the vehicle and a parking position of the vehicle" (emphasis added). Page 7, lines 1-9 of the Office Action asserts that Ejiri et al. disclose, in Fig. 39, an image showing a movement of vehicle 100 between a start position and a parking position (in the direction of arrow B). The Examiner asserts that arrow B suggests an appropriate movement of the vehicle to a parked position. Applicants respectfully disagree. Arrows A, B, and C indicate a collision potential of the vehicle. Arrow B indicates that vehicle 100 is moving towards an obstacle (col. 18, lines 9-23). Thus, vehicle 100, seeing arrow B that indicates an obstacle, would not travel in the direction of arrow B. An assumed-movement pattern that shows the entire movement of the vehicle between a starting position and a parking

position based on a predetermined calculation is not suggested by Ejiri et al. Thus, Ejiri et al. do not include all of the features of claim 1.

Kenji discloses a synthetic image that shows a car from a virtual point of view. Kenji, however, does not make up for the features that are lacking in Ejiri et al., namely, a synthetic image including a surrounding space around the vehicle and an assumed-movement pattern image or that the assumed-movement pattern image includes movement of the vehicle between a start position and a parking position. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Although not identical to claim 1, amended claim 37 includes features similar to claim 1. Namely, 1) a synthetic image including a surrounding space around the vehicle and an assumed-movement pattern image and 2) the assumed-movement pattern image includes movement of the vehicle between a start position and a parking position. As discussed above, these features are not disclosed nor suggested by Ejiri et al., Kenji or their combination. Accordingly, allowance of claim 37 is respectfully requested.

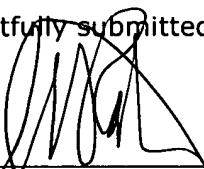
Claims 5, 8-9, 11-12, 14-20, 24, 26, 29-30 and 32 include all of the features from claim 1 from which they depend. Accordingly, these claims are also patentable over the cited art.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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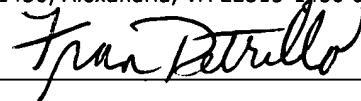
Dated: December 1, 2006

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